

You can vote in Michigan if you are:

- U At least 18 years of age by election day
- U Not presently incarcerated following conviction
- U A Michigan resident and citizen of the United States
- U Registered to vote by October 6th to vote on November 4th

If you were convicted, you can still vote if:

- U You are no longer incarcerated
- U You are currently on probation or parole

**If you are in jail awaiting plea or trial,
you can still vote using an absentee ballot!**

For those in jail awaiting trial:

If you are currently in jail awaiting a plea or trial, you may vote using an absentee ballot. Please see the below steps:

- U **Step 1: You must be registered to vote!!!** See the section of this brochure titled "Registration in Michigan."
- U **Step 2: You must request an application for an absentee ballot from your city or township clerk's office.** If you don't have contact information for your local clerk's office, you may call the MI Bureau of Elections at **1-800-292-5973**. You can also visit <http://www.michigan.gov/vote> and click the absentee voting button on the left side menu. Click the download link found in the section of the page on absentee voting.
- U **Step 3: Complete the form and mail or deliver it to your city or township clerk before 2:00PM, on Saturday November 1, 2008.**
- U **Step 4: You have until 8:00 PM on election day to complete the ballot and return it to the clerk's office.** Only you, a family member or person residing in your household, a mail carrier, or election official is authorized to deliver your absentee ballot.

Other notes on absentee ballots:

- U Once your request is received by the local clerk, your signature on the request will be checked against your voter registration record before a ballot is issued. Also, your ballot will not be counted unless your signature is on the return envelope and matches your signature on file.
- U Absentee voter ballots may be issued to you at your home address or any address outside of your city or township of residence.
- U If you received assistance filling out the ballot, the signature of the person who helped you must also be on the return envelope.

Registration in Michigan

The first step to voting is registration. Below are the steps to registering to vote in Michigan:

- U **Step 1: Complete a voter registration application form.** Forms can be found at your township, city, or county clerk's office or any Secretary of State branch office. In addition, the following state agencies may provide registration forms in their offices: Department of Human Services, Department of Community Health, Department of Civil Rights, and the Career Services offices of the Department of Labor and Economic Growth. Voter registration forms are also available at: <http://www.michigan.gov/vote>.
- U **Step 2: Return the completed form to your township, city or county clerk's office, or to a Secretary of State office.**

If you have never voted in Michigan and register by mail, you must vote in person the first time you vote unless you are disabled, over 60 or serving overseas in the military.

If you want to register but do not have a driver's license or state issued photo ID, the following forms of ID should be acceptable: a COPY of a paycheck stub, utility bill, bank statement or a government document which lists your name and address. DO NOT SEND ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS BY MAIL.

Do I have to show photo identification before I can vote?

- U** **No.** Bringing photo ID is the fastest and easiest way to vote, but you can also vote by signing an affidavit if you don't have ID with you. **You choose whether to sign an affidavit or bring photo ID.**

What if my name isn't on the local clerk's list of registered voters?

- U** **If you are registered you can vote.** Ask for a provisional ballot. You can complete a provisional ballot on election day. But, in order for your vote to count you must visit the city, township or county clerk's office within six days and show your ID.

For Immediate Assistance On Election Day

- U** **FIRST:** contact the Michigan Bureau of Elections at **1-800-292-5973** and ask for assistance. They will either assist you with the problem or direct you to your city, township or county clerk's office. You can also visit <http://www.michigan.gov/vote> and select "Find Your Clerk" to get contact information for your local clerk's office.
- U** **SECOND:** contact the Election Protection Coalition and request help. Call 1-866-OUR-VOTE (1-866-687-8683) or visit www.866ourvote.org.

To File A Complaint After The Election

- U** **Contact the Michigan Department of Civil Rights** at 1-800-482-3604, or visit the website at <http://www.michigan.gov/mdcr>
- U** **Contact the U.S. Dept. of Justice - Voting Section** at 1-800-253-3931, or visit the website <http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/voting>
- U** **Contact the Michigan Bureau of Elections** at 1-800-292-5973 or visit <http://www.michigan.gov/sos>



Michigan Department of Civil Rights
Linda V. Parker, Director

For more information:

1-800-482-3604

<http://www.michigan.gov/mdcr>

TTY: (877) 878-8464

Voting Rights & Criminal Convictions



**Unless you are currently incarcerated,
you can vote!!!**

**You must register by October 6th
to vote November 4th!!!**